

ABSTRACT

A change tracing system detects and records changes made to data items by processes in a computer system. Processes and changes are organized as change sessions in a change history database and tagged with user-provided reasons and other identification fields. A query module provides detailed access to change history and selection of specific changes and items in order to analyze effects of changes, diagnose problems caused by changes, compare changes and change history, rollback from changes to previous item contents or package sets of changes to be repeated. Linkage between data items is recorded in order to document the impact of changes affecting dependent data items. Alerts and copies of change sessions may be transmitted automatically to designated users. Communication between change tracing systems running on networked computers detects and records remotely caused changes on the system where the data item resides as well as the system originating the change.